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LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In its concern to keep the United Nations and the international community abreast of the situation in our country, the Government of Burundi endeavours to communicate regularly to the Security Council, through its President, information which might enable the Council to propose appropriate solutions to the ongoing crisis in Burundi.

Because it is anxious to see the Security Council play a really positive role, the Government of Burundi, through its Prime Minister, has instructed me to transmit to you the attached document, which describes the very positive developments taking place in the context of the overall policy of restoring peace and security and thus shows that the gravity of the crisis is diminishing substantially. The Government of Burundi would be grateful if you would have this message distributed as a document to all the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Térence NSANZE
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 18 February 1996 from the Prime Minister of Burundi addressed to the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations

I am transmitting the following information for the attention of the United Nations Security Council:

It is clear from what Burundi's political actors are saying and doing that there is increasing unanimity and that the differences in their political interpretation of the crisis are obviously disappearing. The third phase of the nationwide public awareness campaign to promote the return to peace and security now shows that the President of the Republic, the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, members of the Government and members of the National Assembly all share the same views on the main issues, namely, identification of the enemies of peace and the strategy for combating them. This is a new and welcome development, even if there are still minor disagreements on some aspects of the strategy.

There is greater cohesion within the executive branch, in other words, among the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Government as a whole, as a result of a frank and thorough dialogue within the Government, which is guiding the process of restoring peace and trust in the country. The statements being made in the field attest to this development; the President of the Republic confirmed it at his press conference held last Friday, 16 February 1996; the President of the National Assembly reported it to his interlocutors on his latest trip to Italy and Switzerland; and I am doing likewise with our European partners on my current trip.

Trust is being restored between the forces of law and order and the population. Indeed, in several parts of the country, the general public are turning systematically to the forces of law and order whenever danger threatens. There is perfect cooperation between the population, the forces of law and order and the local authorities in many of the country's communes when it comes to tracking down armed gangs and other criminals who are threatening security. As a result, criminal activity by armed gangs has declined sharply. This is an encouraging development.

In short, the spirit of confrontation is now giving way to a spirit of conciliation, thereby markedly strengthening the authority of the State and increasing the chances for the Government to succeed before long in the mission of restoring peace and confidence entrusted to it by the Convention on Governance.

I should be grateful if you would convey these observations to the United Nations Security Council, so that it can update its information on the situation in Burundi and take positions that offer encouragement to the Government. The contribution which Burundi expects from the United Nations was amply explained in the Government's positions expressed on 3 January and 28 January 1996, as well as in the letter dated 13 February 1996, addressed to the President of the

Security Council, which was signed jointly by the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister.

(Signed) Antoine NDUWAYO
Prime Minister